

March 26, 2012

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Paula Eifler, I do support the parity bills. However, feel it is important to include all people with Mental illness as well. I have had very similar challenges with my son as the parents whose child has Autism. My son who was originally was diagnosed ADHD in 2002. Then in 2009 he was diagnosed Aspergers after 3 hospitalization. My son when he was very young had problems with socializing with peers and adults, He did not understand slang or idioms, he had sensory integration dysfunction, vestibular and prospective and learning disabilities. We had to pay out of pocket for his multiple evaluations including his Occupational Therapy. He also had visual and perceptive difficulties and we paid out of pocket for is vision therapies. We have Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance but they only cover 50% of his mental health care. We could not get the intense Home based services he needed though community mental health due to our insurance did not cover the intense home based services he needed. We had to re mortgage our home and now have an underwater mortgage with no hope of ever getting out of debt or saving for our retirement or his college.

I work with many families in the community who have the same problem they cannot access the intense supports they need for their children. They like me struggling just to pay the bills month to month. I feel if we had, Parity for all this would help many families received, the intense support they would need in order to avoid the numerous mental health hospitalizations, and residential treatment facilities or worse, yet the child becoming involved the juvenile justice systems or the adult justice systems. Each of these placement could possibly be avoided and save our state thousands and thousands of dollars. If we too had parity this would also allow families and children to be supported and allow them to stay in their community to have and live meaning full lives, to give back to society, as they become adults. Without parity for all many of our children most likely will not be able to give back to society and will only be a burden as Adults and this will continue to cost the state more money and resources into adult hood. Pay me now or pay me later we say. Please help all families not just some!

Sincerely,



Paula Eifler

2560 Voorheis

Waterford, MI 48328